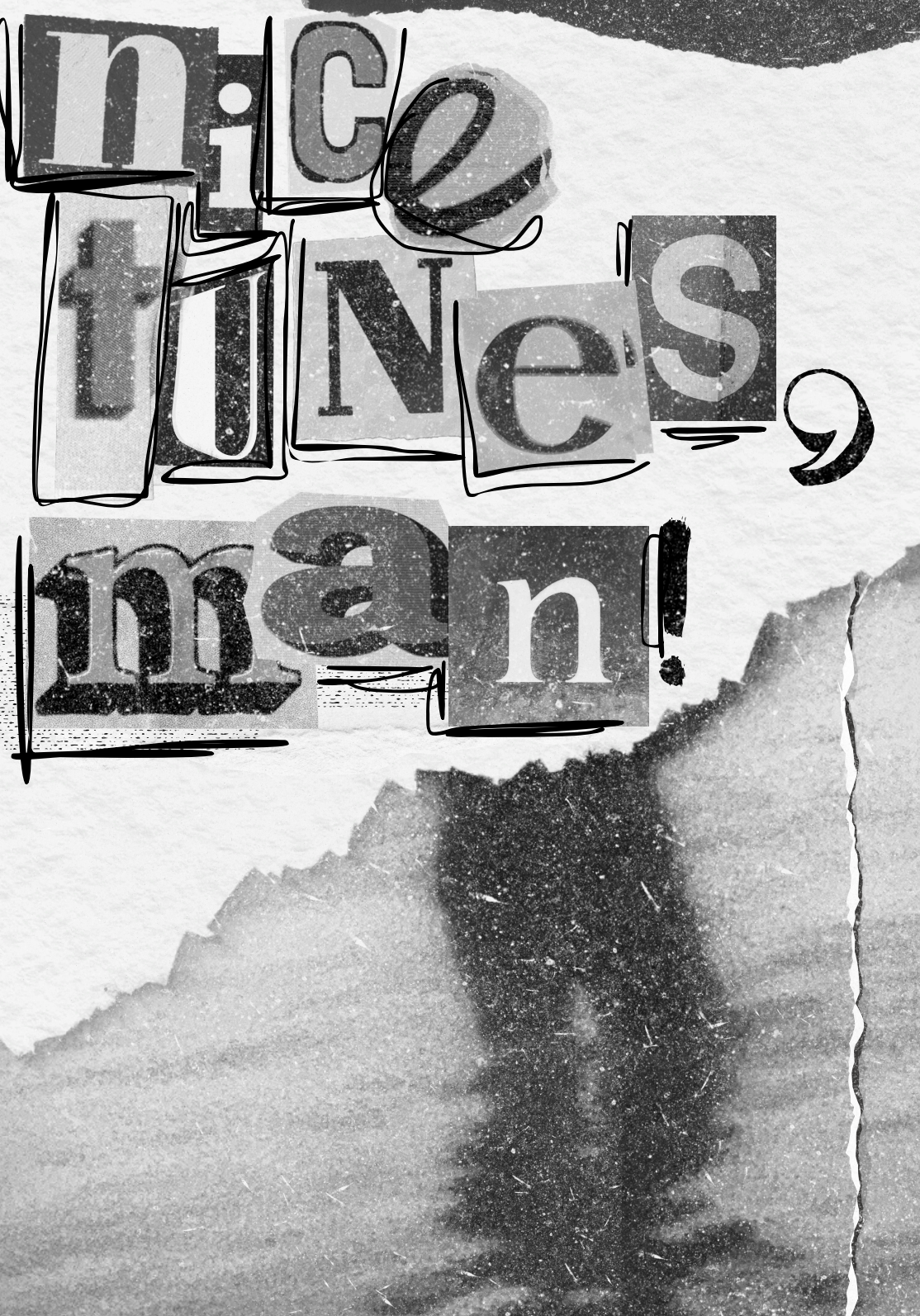
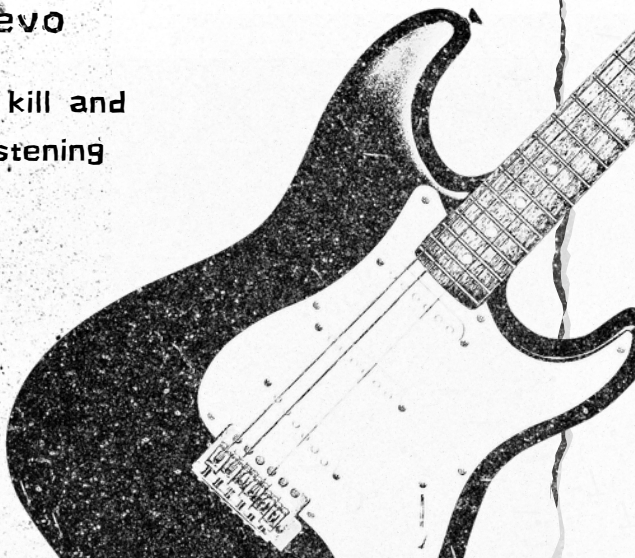

nice tunes, man!

rock on the RADAR

what im listening to in february:

1. your golden ass by califone
2. a question mark by elliott smith
3. angel says its looking bleak (but im always gonna love you) by american holly
4. my my my metrocard by le tigre (RIP METROCARD! SAD DAY FOR USA)
5. whats wrong with you by bratmobile
6. cannock chase by labi siffre
7. pepper by the butthole surfers
8. jackson cannery by ben folds five
9. rebel girl by bikini kill
10. split personality &
11. red - both by twelve rods
12. i was watching your eyes by of montreal
13. jocko homo by devo

(HEAVY on le tigre/bikini kill and elliott smith - ive been listening religiously!!)



Listen and LIVE!

Ive been seeing a LOT of bored people lately.

I have this problem a lot, too. Its weird, because you could argue weve got endless stuff to do, but the stuff that we DO makes us bored: theres some scientific lingo for it, but basically, Tiktok and all that other junk makes your dopamine go crazy, which makes you super bored, which makes you use it more. What youve really gotta do is find this balance for it, which is crazy hard with social media, since its made to be used A LOT! Im sure everybodys heard about it by now, because everyone likes to talk about how it rots your brain, and Im sure youre reading this saying ' yeah, Isaac, who cares? shut your trap! '

Whats really crazy about it is how prevalent it is with the punk people I know! Such a huge part of the rock scene is breaking out from all that! I think that, in going digital, weve lost A LOT in translation. I know maybe one or two people who go to shows. I know maybe one or two people who protest, or pick up litter, or any of the crap theyre saying other people should do. Practice what you preach! Do something!

What Im really trying to say with all of this is that youre bored because youre not doing anything. You want the quick and easy solution to how miserable you are? Go out! Go to the park, or shows, or volunteer or something! Anything! Or stay in, and play music, or make art, or read! Learn how to sew! Youve gotta listen to good music, make good shit, and surround yourself with good people, and thats the only way to feel GOOD. You have to put good out there. Youre not going to get it scrolling forever.

Go listen to ' Get Off The Internet ' by Le Tigre! Pretty relevant!

music is ROCK N' ROLL! leather is ROCK N' ROLL! libraries are ROCK N' ROLL! protests are ROCK N' ROLL! wikipedia is ROCK N' ROLL! local politics are ROCK N' ROLL! getting registered to vote is ROCK N' ROLL! the pursuit of knowledge is ROCK N' ROLL! trans fellas are ROCK N' ROLL! dolls are ROCK N' ROLL! equal rights is ROCK N' ROLL! obstructing unlawful assaults is ROCK N' ROLL! supporting local artists is ROCK N' ROLL! environmentalism is ROCK N' ROLL! fighting genocide is ROCK N' ROLL! critical race theory is ROCK N' ROLL! rejecting fascism is ROCK N' ROLL! remembrance is ROCK N' ROLL! religious liberty is ROCK N' ROLL! riot grrrl is ROCK N' ROLL! punk is ROCK N' ROLL! screamo is ROCK N' ROLL! new wave is ROCK N' ROLL! metal is ROCK N' ROLL! prog is ROCK N' ROLL! grunge is ROCK N' ROLL! blues is ROCK N' ROLL! DIY is ROCK N' ROLL! charity is ROCK N' ROLL! public infrastructure is ROCK N' ROLL! dogs are ROCK N' ROLL!

LEILANA (resident rocker): "I think being punk is standing up for what you believe in. Not just by saying you do, but by taking physical action to fight for your beliefs. With that in mind, punk is inherently anti-authoritarian, so I believe being punk is also standing up against the establishment in various ways. All in all, being punk is standing up against authority/for what you believe in by taking action in big or small ways."

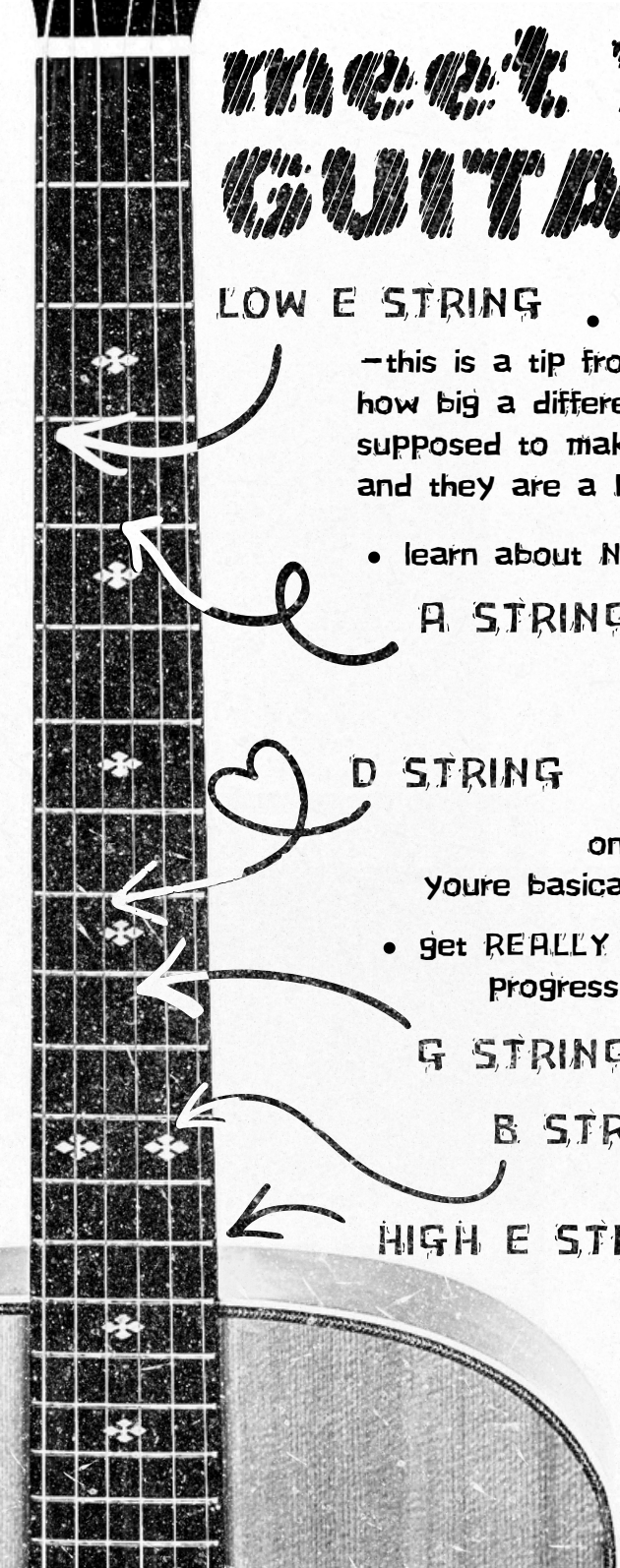
NAT (skater enthusiast): "Punk has always been - not only a music genre, but mostly political. I would say its anti-establishment, anti-authoritarianism. But mostly, I would say its self-expressive; like anti-consumerism, anti-facism, pro-LGBTQ, all these things."

AJ (out-of-state informant): "I think punk is defined by antiestablishment ideas and an exploration of self expression. Punk is loving your friends and community more than hating the systems that keep them down (though still hating them quite a bit). Punk is being who you are through music, art, and clothes. Punk is angry and loud, but it is also supporting the oppressed."

ELI (not a punk): "I don't listen to a lot of punk- I feel like its mostly a political movement. I think it's just if you have that mindset. Its not who someone is, like, oh, someone dressed this way, or they thrift their clothes, or they only listen to punk music, or go to all the punk shows. I think that's when it becomes performative. I feel like its just someone who, y'know, is."

LIBBY (elder punk): (long sigh..) "Fucking shit up crazy style."

meet your GUITAR!



- get some string conditioner -this is a tip from my dad. not too sure how big a difference it makes, but its supposed to make your strings last longer and they are a PAIN to change.
- learn about NOTES! basically, each string is a note (E, A, you get the picture) and each fret is a new note on the scale. if you know all your notes and you know which ones make up which chords, youre basically set.
- get REALLY GOOD at strumming. chord progressions are easy to get down if you go slow but you cant play without rhythm. youre doing a lot of moving while youre playing guitar so youve got to get a hang of multitasking.
- play while you watch TV!!! it helps u get chord progressions down + gets u playing more

what is PUNK? cont...

RILEY (screamo lover): "I think being punk is- its not about the way you look or anything about that. Style can be a part of the subculture, but its not what makes it, you know? Its about community, and protecting each other, and defending yourself from fascism. Im not punk - the stuff Im into originated from the whole hardcore scene, but a lot of people are hypocritical about their values. They dont get whats at the core of the sub-cultures. Its about standing up for others, and who you are."

ZAHRA (avid activist): "When Isaac asked me this, I went to bed that night with Non Serviam by Frank Turner playing in my head - and I think that he has one of the truest definitions of Punk. 'Help the ones in need/do your best to leave the others be/doubt yourself and keep your mind open/navigate the progress and the scams/non serviam.' To be Punk is to be rebelliously, bravely, kind. To boldly, passionately, fight for your community. Punk is a gay man playing the air guitar to Pink Pony Club while phonebanking with the ACLU, and it is my co-organizer sipping coffee, wearing guyliner, and interviewing school board members, and it is me, in black combat boots and a shirt made with my own hands, fighting transphobic policy at the local level. The Punk scene is a place of unconditional belonging for everything weird, everything bright, everything beautiful and chaotic and holy that society shuns. It is protecting your family of strangers, even in a mosh pit. 'Non Serviam' means 'I will not serve.' It is a condemnation of that which seeks to oppress, and Punk condemns it in the most wonderful of ways - creatively. Anti-authoritarianism is Punk. Feminism is Punk. Anti-racism is Punk. Subverting the standard in a shift towards love. That is the purest definition of Punk that I know."

music media

SCOTT PILGRIM vs. THE WORLD (2010) - LOVED the comics! Sex-bob-bomb is killer! Visuals + graphic design is astonishing.

NANA (2006) - Just got my sister to watch it. Style is super beautiful, and the clothes are KILLER! I dont usually watch anime, but it has the coolest character design Ive ever seen in one.

THE PUNK SINGER (2013) - Bikini Kill has to be one of my favorite bands, and hearing about Kathleen Hanna (co founder of riot grrrl! the whole genre!) and how she started out is nothing short of AWE-INSPIRING!

THIS IS SPINAL TAP (1984) - A little biased with this rec - Im obsessed with mockumentaries. Good music (even though theyre Brits) and June Chadwick has this cool rocker hair.

EMPIRE RECORDS (1995) - A bunch of teens have to save the record store they work at from getting turned into a huge chain. Lots of music! Lots of yelling! Lots of love!

STAND (?): Documentary I watched a while ago with my dad about Sly and the Family Stone, a 70's soul band out of California. Cant find a thing about it, but it gives a super cool perspective on Sly from everyone else in the band.

talking music

There ' s an itch in my brain that says ' theres a lot more to music than listening; than art; than politics; than any message or metaphor or whatever that i could write. '

It ' s this weird, transcendental (?) feeling that I get, when I read or when I get to thinking, when I ' m with certain people or when I play guitar, like I ' m someone else completely in a whole different time. It ' s a connection to the world and to sound and all that makes you feel more complete. I think that ' s purpose. It ' s huge, like a hurricane pushing and pulling you around, or like when you ' re in a boat and a big wave swallows you up.

All those things from before, though, are purpose. The person who wrote that song — that ' s their thing. When they ' re up there yelling about punching cops, that ' s their thing. When they ' re singing something really eloquent, that ' s their thing. You can really tell when someone wrote something with a lot of feeling behind it, something in the sound, like how you can sort of sus it out in a book or a painting.

Art is what connects us to that purpose. It ' s trying to pull you into it, make you a part of it. When you hear that really good, rocking song, and all you can do is stare forward and think about it, it ' s got you. That ' s why it ' s so important to have art, and to be around it. It ' s what keeps us from being husks. We need art, or we ' d be hobbling around like gross, rotting zombies.

Or, really, you need something that connects you to art. Or someone. You need something to pull you in. You need a catastrophe.

Nice Tunes, Man!

ME!

Nice Tunes, Man is a monthly music zine based in Fort Worth, Texas. All of the photos (with one or two exceptions), lists, and interviews are from punks and rockers and music-lovers I know from around town. There might be nothing more prevalent in my and the people I know's lives than music; Nice Tunes, Man is for everything rock 'n roll my friends and I can think of. Each month, I'll hide a bajillion copies around Fort Worth. Keep an eye out!

One of the most important things about rock is community. If there's something you want to see - art, local bands, photos, whatever - shoot me an email! I'd be thrilled to hear your opinions on stuff! Rock on!

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